

## AFSMHV – Arizona Fescue – Slimstem Muhly Herbaceous Vegetation (Map Unit 30)



Photo credit: Jim Von Loh



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The Arizona Fescue – Slimstem Muhly Herbaceous Vegetation (AFSMHV, Map Unit 30) represents a combination of the *Festuca arizonica* – *Muhlenbergia filiculmis* (Arizona Fescue – Slimstem Muhly) Herbaceous Vegetation Association and the *Muhlenbergia filiculmis* (Slimstem Muhly) Herbaceous Vegetation Association.

*Festuca arizonica* – *Muhlenbergia filiculmis* (Arizona Fescue – Slimstem Muhly) Herbaceous Vegetation Association – This grassland type occupies upper hill and ridge slopes and low hill and ridgetops with thin, gravelly soils. It is occasionally observed on lower slopes with southern exposures. It is found at lower and middle elevations.

*Muhlenbergia filiculmis* (Slimstem Muhly) Herbaceous Vegetation Association – This herbaceous vegetation occupies thin soils on the tops of ridges and hills within more extensive *Festuca arizonica* – *Muhlenbergia filiculmis* (Arizona Fescue – Slimstem Muhly) Herbaceous Vegetation and *Festuca arizonica* – *Muhlenbergia montana* (Arizona Fescue – Mountain Muhly) Herbaceous Vegetation. These sites are nearly flat, generally lie on south- and west-facing exposures, and occur at the lower to middle elevations.

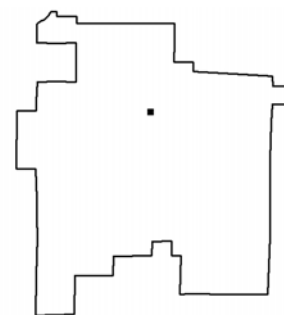
## AFSMHV – Arizona Fescue – Slimstem Muhly Herbaceous Vegetation (Map Unit 30) Continued

### Photo Signatures

These two associations are difficult to distinguish from one another. In the natural color aerial photography, AFSMHV appears as light tan to almost white, with a smooth texture. The tones are slightly darker in lower portions. The stands are typically circular/ellipsoid or narrow following the ridgetops. Foliar cover of the grasses is 25-70%, with the remainder being gravel, litter, or mosses and lichens. The signature closely resembles the drier portions of the Arizona Fescue – Mountain Muhly Herbaceous Vegetation (Map Unit 28) and the Smooth Brome Semi-natural Herbaceous Vegetation (Map Unit 25). Photo AFSMHV-1 and AFSMHV-2 were taken in September 1996.



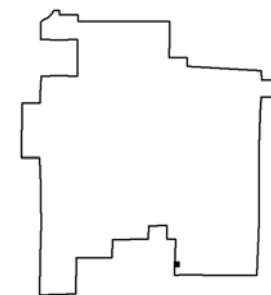
Photo AFSMHV-1



Location of **AFSMHV-1** within  
National Monument



Photo AFSMHV-2



Location of **AFSMHV-2** within  
National Monument

## **AFSMHV – Arizona Fescue – Slimstem Muhly Herbaceous Vegetation (Map Unit 30) Continued**

### **Area Report for AFSMHV Map Unit**

Number of Polygons: 25

Number of Hectares: 34.2

Number of Acres: 84.5

Average Size: 1.4 hectares, 3.4 acres

### **Accuracy Assessment Results for AFSMHV Map Unit**

The Arizona Fescue – Slimstem Muhly Herbaceous Vegetation Map Unit was assessed at 68% for producers' accuracy (confidence interval 51-85%) and at 81% users' accuracy (confidence interval 64-97%).